

THE NEW AGE, PORTLAND, OREGON.

The New Age

A. D. GRIFFIN, Manager.

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THE DEMOCRATIC EDICT.

Captain Samuel White, chairman of the state central Democratic committee, and his secretary, Richard W. Montague, have finally and in good time issued the edict on the lines of which Democracy will prosecute its claim to state patronage in the present campaign. On January 30 the Democrats will meet in Portland to devise ways and means.

A peculiar feature of the proposed love feast will be Democracy's absolute renunciation of any complicity in the scheme of the Populists of the state to capture and reclaim the masses of Oregon. They will have nothing to do with the aims of the Populists or the aims of other factions of the Democratic party or any other party. The fight will be made purely, clearly and cleanly on Jeffersonian principles, under which Oregon Democracy is being rejuvenated.

Chairman White has been in touch with the promulgators of popular sentiment in several important districts of the state and he has happily discovered that it is all Democratic. He proposes now to place himself in proper proximity with other important sections of our great commonwealth and sample the various brands of Democracy therein being developed. Thereafter he will report the nature of his discovery and suggest, probably, the new plan of renovation where it may be found proper to apply it. Wherefore the suffering masses of Oregon should be duly thankful to Chairman White.

Secretary Montague suggests that, out of respect for the Republican majority in the state, as shown by statistics of the last election, the Democrats will permit the Republicans to hold their convention first. This Secretary Montague concedes as a matter of etiquette. Thoughtful Mr. Montague should be gratefully remembered for this kindness.

Incidentally, however, it is learned from Democratic sources, in close touch with Chairman White and his secretary, that the Populist party has disbanded and that its members are flocking to the Democratic organization wherever they can find it. A more conservative source of information suggests that a good many of the disaffected voters who, in their political dementia, formed the Populist party, came from Republican ranks and that they are now returning with equal celerity and despatch to the old fold. Hence, the conclusion is reached that both parties will receive additional strength from the source whence came the decadence of Populism.

It is a fact, nevertheless, that Democracy is organizing and that its organizers have confidence that they will be able to rally a strong force under the old flag of Jeffersonian principles. Much of this latter suggestion comes from Republican sources throughout the state and is therefore worthy of consideration.

There is cause for congratulation in the fact that Chairman White and Secretary Montague will observe political etiquette to the extent of permitting the Republicans to hold their convention first—in other words, to show their hand, so the Democrats may know what to play to. But it is equally observable that the Republicans have begun the play with much confidence, independently of what Democracy may have up its sleeve.

It is really a source of infinite joy that the Democrats are reorganizing. The Republicans have had so little opposition in recent state elections that they have become indolent. This new incentive to Republican reorganization is timely and may result in much good for the party. The source from which Oregon's Republican "society" gets its strength doesn't exist alone in Multnomah county. Rejuvenation of the Democratic party may make this fact prominent.

It is said that the Simon slate has been perfected. It is said, also, that the publication of the list of judges and clerks of election exposes the character of that slate. The machinery is of the "perfected" kind and is supposed to do its work in several colors. It is also reported that Senator Simon will be back in time to superintend the work. This is not generally believed to be true, because Senator Simon's official place of operation is in Washington, D. C., where the United States senate is in session. However—Senator Simon may come back.

The slate is out. The campaign is on.

The suggestion of L. R. Lewis' candidacy for county surveyor meets with enthusiastic support from his many friends. No man in Multnomah county is more competent than Mr. Lewis to discharge the responsibilities of that office. He has had experience in the work for four years as deputy, and the systematic manner in which he has done the work assigned to him proves beyond question his capability. Personally Mr. Lewis is a very popular man among all classes of people in every part of the county.

Hon. Robert Kelly, sheriff of Wasco county, seems to have substantial opposition in his candidacy for appointment to the office of United States Marshal for Oregon. His friends insist that he is not only the logical candidate for the appointment, but that he is the flattest man in the state for the office. His official record as sheriff of Wasco county shows clearly that Hon. Robert Kelly is the man whom our delegation at Washington should name for that place.

Every good citizen will recognize the fact that it is his duty to get his name on the registration books now open. It is his duty to himself, to his neighbors, to his country, and incidentally to his party to register and vote. The present campaign is one of great importance. People of the state, the county and the city are rallying their forces. He should be among them, on one side or the other.

Captain Pope is receiving the congratulations of his friends on the excellent manner in which he has his official work in hand and on the suggestion that he is the choice of those who know the value of his service in that office to be his own successor.

It is said that Hon. C. A. Johns, of Baker City, doesn't want to be governor as much as he desires to secure a concession from the man who ought to be. His announcement will have little effect on political conditions east of the mountains.

Senator Mitchell's assiduity in pursuance of his task at Washington is winning for him many expressions of compliment from Oregon.

Since the "list" has been officially announced the local fight is in confusion. And yet much of it was anticipated.

Uncle Sam.

"Uncle Sam" was invented about the time of the American War of 1812. Two inspectors of war supplies of Troy, N. Y., were named Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson.

A workman in their employ was making a lot of casks received from one Elbert Anderson, a New York contractor, which were stamped "E. A.—U. S." Somebody asked the workman what these marks meant, and he replied that they probably meant "Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam," alluding to Inspector Samuel Wilson, who was locally spoken of as "Uncle Sam."

Thus the initials of the United States were transformed by a local joke into a national sobriquet which will doubtless last as long as the republic.

The nickname "Brother Jonathan" dates back to the time when Gen. Washington went to Massachusetts to take command of the Revolutionary Army. Finding a great lack of ammunition and other supplies, he turned to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut for aid and received it, and in many emergencies of that period he used the phrase. "We must consult Brother Jonathan on the subject." The expression quickly became nationally current.

Her Metaphorical Hook.

"I have just been studying the thing over," he said, "and I am astonished at the way we are in the habit of going to metals for the purpose of finding words that will describe our charms or characteristics. For instance, we say one's voice has a metallic ring or that it is silvery. Then again we often hear somebody called a man of iron, and it is common to speak of people's bronzed features."

"Yes," she answered, "now that you bring it to mind, it is quite remarkable."

"To continue," he said, "we often say a person is as inflexible as steel or that he moves with leaden feet, and then there is that joke about people who are supposed to have copper-lined stomachs you know. Now, as for you—yes, you may be compared to a metal, too. You are pure gold. Ah, don't turn your head away. Come now, how would you describe me if you were to be limited to this sort of metaphor?"

"I should call you a study in brass," the girl replied, after which he discovered that it was getting late.

Spectacles.

"I see that a number of Boston women have threatened to attend the coming horse show in that city and ride their horses in the same fashion that their spectacles ride their noses."

"Dear me! What spectacles they will make of themselves!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Music in St. Peter's.

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